



Press Release

Lake County Sheriff's Office
www.sheriffdunlap.org

Daniel A. Dunlap
Sheriff

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November 12, 2010
Marijuana Usage Among Teenagers



The [National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse \(CASA\)](http://www.nationalcenteronaddiction.org) at Columbia University has reported that although marijuana use among teenagers has declined, there are still an estimated 11 million teenagers using marijuana today. Key to remember is that this is not the marijuana that was being produced in the 1970's. The THC potency in marijuana seized in the 1970's, when marijuana use was most prevalent, was less than one percent; today such potency levels have climbed to 8.8 percent. Equally alarming is that compared to lows in 1992 the report found that in 2007 the proportion of teens who had used the drug was 27 percent higher among eighth graders, 45 percent higher among tenth graders and 28 percent higher among twelfth graders. The research found that almost 10 million 12- to 17-year olds can buy marijuana within a day, and almost four and a half million can buy it within an hour or less. Teens who use marijuana are playing a dangerous game of Russian roulette with the bullets of addiction, accidents, crime and mental illness. We all must understand that marijuana is a risky and addictive drug with serious health and social consequences. Take a minute to visit our drug awareness page (<http://www.lakecountyohio.gov/SheriffsOffice>) and stay informed.

Sheriff Dan Dunlap